



MORELLI



June 25, 1990

The Honorable Sharpe James
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
Room 200
920 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Sharpe,

I would, first of all, like to thank you for both your friendship and your sincere support of the "Behold" monument project. Yours and Pam Goldstein's support and words of encouragement and praise genuinely helped to promote the spirit and intent of the "Behold" artwork as an inspiration to all people--especially children.

As you probably know by now the "Behold" monument has been moved out of the Newark Public Library at the request and insistence of Alex Boyd. I met, specially, with Alex and tried to explain to him the enormous inspiration and positive effect the presence of the "Behold" monument would have on visitors and especially on the self-esteem of Black children in seeing their heritage glorified in such a beautiful and powerful fashion.

Alex was not the least interested in what I said and told me bluntly that he and his staff "quite frankly, do not share your vision of the "Behold" monument."

Calls were made to the curator of the Newark Museum asking him to accept the "Behold" monument as a donation, free of charge, including the moving and installation.

He responded the same day that "the Newark Museum does not have any room for the monument." Translation: "We're not interested".

I know that you offered a site in the rotunda of City Hall. But I'm sure you'll understand my view that the "Behold" monument is a very prestigious and significant work of fine art that should be exhibited in a major cultural institution which can maintain it and publicize it in the main stream of the cultural communities.

I am, therefore, presently talking to a number of major, cultural institutions in the state to accept the "Behold" monument as part of their permanent collection.

Again, thank you for your help and support. Please don't hesitate to call me should you feel that I can be of help to you in any way.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Morelli

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